(c) The BPL Census 1997 was conduced based on consumption expenditure as one of the main parameters and adopted Rs. 20,000/- per annum per household as limit for exclusion of a family from the BPL Census 2002 was conducted using the methodology of Score Based Ranking of rural household for which 13 socio-economic parameters such as size of land holding, type of houses, food security, sanitation, ownership of consumer durables, literacy, means of livelihood, etc. were prescribed by the Expert Group constituted by the Ministry.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposals from Maharashtra

1433. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending for approval in his Ministry from the State of Maharashtra till date and since when they have been pending;

(b) the details of the pending proposals and the reasons of delay in their approval;

(c) whether Government would issue any guideline to settle the proposals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There is no proposal from Government of Maharashtra lying pending for approval.

(b) to (d) does not arise.

Strategy to protect common man

1434. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any special plan and strategy to save industries, employments, maintain growth rate, increase per capita income and protect the increase of Aam Admi in view of global economy slow down, downtrend growth and employment, closure and merger of industries and industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown on the Indian economy, Government responded by providing three focused fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief and increased expenditure on public projects along with Reserve Bank of India taking a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures.

Genetically modified crops

1435. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government is taking or proposing to take to ensure that Genetically Modified Crops do not become a health hazard to the public; and